

RECOMMEND BEST PRACTICES - WRONG SITE SURGERY

Best Practices adopted by Tennessee Improving Patient Safety (TIPS) on March 1, 2002

Both Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality encourage and suggest facilities develop processes to assure the correct surgical site, patient and procedure. The following are recommended:

- 1) marking the surgical site and involving the patient in the marking process;
- 2) creating and using a verification checklist including appropriate documents, for example, medical records, X-rays and/or imaging studies;
- 3) obtaining oral verification of the patient, surgical site, and procedure in the operating room by each member of the surgical team; and
- 4) monitoring compliance with these procedures. Additionally, JCAHO recommends that
- 5) surgical teams consider taking a “time out” in the operating room to verify the correct patient, procedure and site, using active--not passive--communication techniques.

Resources:

1. Sentinel Event Alert, Issue 24, December 5, 2001
2. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, <http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/20tips.htm>

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